



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/648,474	08/21/2000	Brian Mark Sluster	70111.00009	5826
58688 7590 01/08/2009 CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP P.O. BOX 2207 WILMINGTON, DE 19899				
EXAMINER NGUYEN, DUSTIN				
ART UNIT 2454		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 01/08/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 50-69 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 10/24/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. As per remarks, Applicants' argued that (1) MacNaughton fails to teach or suggest defining, in response to interaction with a network client, a defined topic consisting of one or more human-language words.
4. As to point (1), Examiner respectfully disagrees. MacNaughton discloses an online community service [Abstract] including a message area as a place for posting and responding to messages relating to a specific topic [Figure 6; and paragraphs 0005 and 0006] and interaction with other members of the community, such as chatting [paragraphs 0011, 0014, 0015, 0017 and 0034]. As such, MacNaughton discloses defining, in response to interaction with a network client, a defined topic consisting of one or more human-language words, and therefore, the claim remains rejected over the cited prior art.

5. As per remarks, Applicants' argued that (2) MacNaughton fails to teach or suggest a plurality of links to respective different remote information resources each containing information related to the defined topic.

6. As to point (2), MacNaughton clearly discloses a plurality of links to respective remote information resources each containing information related to the defined topic [i.e. annotation or note maybe comprised of a list of subject or topic related headings that a user may peruse, a list of threaded messages relating to a particular subject or topic headings, or a content of a particular message] [paragraphs 0036 and 0038]. In addition, MacNaughton discloses each screenful of information includes menu choices, highlighted words, or graphics through which users can locate further information, either from the same computer or by linking automatically to another computer somewhere else on the Internet [paragraph 0008], and the user may browse the information at the Web site by reading the text and viewing the graphics on the Web page and selecting links to related information which may or may not be available on the same server [paragraph 0030]. As such, MacNaughton discloses the claimed limitation of plurality of links to respective remote information resources each containing information related to the defined topic as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 50-52, 55, 57, 59-61, 66, 68 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacNaughton et al. [US Patent Application No 2006/0242583], in view of Dyko et al. [US Patent No 6,240,412], and further in view of Kurzrok [US Patent No 6,260,064].

9. As per claim 50, MacNaughton discloses the invention as claimed including a computer-implemented method for exchanging information within a group of users on a wide area network [i.e. on-line service community] [Abstract; Figure 1A; and paragraph 0003], comprising:

defining, in response to interaction with a network client, a defined topic consisting of one or more human-language words [i.e. posting and responding to messages relating to a specific topic] [paragraphs 0006, 0008 and 0009];

serving the defined topic for discussion to a plurality of remote clients over the wide area network [i.e. message area serves as a place for posting and responding to messages relating to a specific topic] [Figure 6; and paragraph 0006], identified as the defined topic for an integrated information resource [i.e. specific topic or specific area of interest] [Abstract; paragraphs 0006 and 0016];

receiving information posts responsive to the defined topic from the plurality of remote clients [i.e. users post community message] [paragraphs 0041, 0087, 0124];

integrating the defined topic, the information posts, and a plurality of links to respective different remote information resources each containing information related to the defined topic,

to provide the integrated information resource [i.e. community client serves as access mechanism to the community services, annotation, and interactions] [paragraphs 0014-0019, 0030, 0036 and 0037], the plurality of links being distinct from the information posts [paragraph 0036].

MacNaughton does not specifically disclose

testing the defined topic to ensure that it is unique from any additional topics already defined within a memory of the server computer and that all of the human-language words making up the defined topic have a recognized meaning.

Dyko discloses

testing the defined topic to ensure that it is unique from any additional topics already defined within a memory of the server computer and that all of the human-language words making up the defined topic have a recognized meaning [i.e. check for proposed new topic may duplicate with existing topic] [304, Figure 3; Abstract; col 8, lines 30-38; and claim 22].

MacNaughton and Dyko do not specifically disclose

serving user-interface objects for rating relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the plurality of links to the defined topic with the integrated information resource to the plurality of remote clients;

receiving user ratings from the plurality of remote clients responsive to the serving of the user-interface objects;

aggregating the user ratings to provide aggregate relevance ratings data; and

publishing the aggregate relevance ratings data with the information posts and with the plurality of links to the plurality of remote clients as indicating user-rated relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the remote information resources to the defined topic.

Kurzrok discloses

serving user-interface objects for rating relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the plurality of links to the defined topic with the integrated information resource to the plurality of remote clients [i.e. reader evaluating said article and advertisement to generate said ratings] [col 1, lines 49-54; and col 2, lines 58-col 3, lines 27];

receiving user ratings from the plurality of remote clients responsive to the serving of the user-interface objects [i.e. receive ratings from readers] [300, Figure 5; col 1, lines 54-59; and col 4, lines 4-13];

aggregating the user ratings to provide aggregate relevance ratings data [i.e. total or accumulating ratings] [302, Figure 5; col 1, lines 44-48 and lines 59-65; and col 4, lines 12-20]; and

publishing the aggregate relevance ratings data with the information post and with the plurality of links to the plurality of remote clients as indicating user-rated relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the remote information resources to the defined topic [i.e. providing said rating parameters to a requester reader with associated statistical information] [310, Figure 5; col 2, lines 12-15; and col 4, lines 61-65].

It would have been obvious to a person skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of MacNaughton, Dyko and Kurzrok because the teaching of Kurzrok would enable to provide an automatic rating system for some of its content and to

generate a rating indicium which is sent to the content provided and/or generate a payment method [Kurzrok, col 1, lines 6-11].

10. As per claim 51, MacNaughton discloses modifying the integrated information resource to prioritize information according to the aggregate relevance ratings data [i.e. voting and scoring to be updated] [paragraphs 0020 and 0106].

11. As per claim 52, MacNaughton discloses serving the user-interface objects configured for providing the users an option to rate the information posts according to predetermined rating values [i.e. vote and score] [paragraphs 0020, 0041 and 0106].

12. As per claim 55, Kurzrok discloses compiling the aggregate relevance ratings data for information posts identified as submitted by respective ones of the group of users to provide source-associated rating data, wherein each rating in the source-associated rating data is calculated from a portion of the aggregate relevance ratings data pertaining exclusively to information posts identified as submitted by a different respective one of the group of users [Figure 5; and col 4, lines 3-67].

13. As per claim 57, Kurzrok discloses providing the users an option to receive a rating in the source-associated rating data for each user that has provided information posts to the integrated information resource [i.e. invite the reader to provide rating] [col 3, lines 12-24].

14. As per claim 59, Kurzrok discloses presenting the plurality of links on a menu of a web page [Figure 2; Abstract; and col 1, lines 61-col 2, lines 14].

15. As per claim 60, Kurzrok discloses presenting the plurality of links grouped in a corresponding plurality of menus of the web page, wherein each of the plurality of menus contains links pertaining to a category of information [Figure 2; col 4, lines 34-51; and claim 3].

16. As per claim 61, it is rejected for similar reasons as stated above in claim 50. Furthermore, MacNaughton discloses serving a plurality of additional defined topics for discussion to the plurality of remote clients [i.e. plurality of topics] [paragraphs 0006, 0016, and 0043].

17. As per claim 66, Kurzrok discloses serving at the respective different remote information resources each comprising at least one link back to the integrated information resource [col 2, lines 58-col 3, lines 8].

18. As per claim 68, MacNaughton discloses defining a plurality of additional topics for the soliciting additional posts of information from the plurality of remote clients, and serving the plurality of additional topics to the plurality of remote clients [paragraphs 0020, 0034 and 0061].

19. As per claim 69, it is rejected for similar reasons as stated above in claim 61.

Furthermore, MacNaughton discloses grouping the additional posts of information in a plurality of topically organized interlinked information resources according to additional aggregate relevance rating data derived from user ratings of relevance from the plurality of remote clients of the additional posts of information to respective ones of the plurality of additional topics, wherein each of the interlinked information resources comprises selected ones of the additional posts of information that the additional aggregate relevance rating data indicates are more relevant to a respective one of the plurality of additional topics identified as a primary topic of the each of the hyperlinked information resources than to other ones of the plurality of additional topics [i.e. organize messages] [paragraphs 0007, 0016, 0037 and 0038].

20. Claims 53, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 65 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacNaughton et al. [US Patent Application No 2006/0242583], in view of Dyko et al. [US Patent No 6,240,412], and further in view of Kurzrok [US Patent No 6,260,064], and Ginn [US Patent No 6,275,811].

21. As per claim 53, MacNaughton, Dyko and Kurzrok do not specifically disclose displaying the information posts in the integrated information resource in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance ratings data. Ginn discloses displaying the information posts in the integrated information resource in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance ratings data [i.e. sorted in order] [col 10, lines 62-64; and col 11, lines 28-39]. It

would have been obvious to a person skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of MacNaughton, Dyko, Kurzrok and Ginn because the teaching of Ginn would provide a system and method which accumulate and communicate points representing the value of posting a message to other users in a discussion group [Ginn, col 3, lines 24-38].

22. As per claim 54, Ginn discloses displaying the plurality of links in the integrated information resource in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance ratings data [col 3, lines 49-64; and col 11, lines 28-39].

23. As per claim 56, Ginn discloses ranking the group of users according to each respective one of the group of users' respective rating in the source-associated rating data [Figure 7; and col 8, lines 1-67].

24. As per claim 58, MacNaughton discloses receiving preference information from the plurality of remote clients [i.e. user register preferences] [paragraphs 0040 and 0128]. MacNaughton, Dyko and Kurzrok do not specifically disclose wherein the preference information specifies threshold criteria set by respective ones of the group of users for filtering the information posts according to the source-associated rating data applied to the contributor of each post of the information posts. Ginn discloses wherein the preference information specifies threshold criteria set by respective ones of the group of users for filtering the information posts according to the source-associated rating data applied to the contributor of each post of the information posts [col 3, lines 37-40; and 6, lines 24-28]. It would have been obvious to a

person skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of MacNaughton, Dyko, Kurzrok and Ginn because the teaching of Ginn would provide a system and method which accumulate and communicate points representing the value of posting a message to other users in a discussion group [Ginn, col 3, lines 24-38].

25. As per claim 62, Ginn discloses ranking the plurality of links according to a measured use of ones of the plurality of links by ones of the plurality of remote clients [col 10, lines 62-64; and col 11, lines 28-39].

26. As per claim 64, it is rejected for similar reasons as stated above in claim 58.

27. As per claim 65, Ginn discloses serving an interactive tolerance bar for providing the users an option to send the preference information [col 11, lines 27-39].

28. As per claim 67, Ginn discloses ranking the plurality of links according to measured activity of the at least one link back on the different remote information resources [i.e. most activity] [col 6, lines 48-56; and col 10, lines 12-18].

29. Claim 63 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacNaughton et al. [US Patent Application No 2006/0242583], in view of Dyko et al. [US Patent No 6,240,412

], and further in view of Kurzrok [US Patent No 6,260,064], Ginn [US Patent No 6,275,811] and Dan et al. [US Patent Application No 2006/0149833].

30. As per claim 63, MacNaughton, Dyko, Kurzrok and Ginn do not specifically disclose performing an action selected from adding a link to the plurality of links, and deleting a link from the plurality of links, according to a ranking determined in the ranking step. Dan discloses performing an action selected from adding a link to the plurality of links, and deleting a link from the plurality of links, according to a ranking determined in the ranking step [i.e. create and delete] [paragraphs 0021, 0027, 0139, 0197, and 0247]. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of MacNaughton, Dyko, Kurzrok, Ginn and Dan because the teaching of Dan would enable to provide a system for managing a site on a computer network, and integrating site architecture, navigation, design and management [Dan, paragraph 0005].

31. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dustin Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3971. The examiner can normally be reached on flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached at (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Dustin Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454